

REMARKS

Applicant replies to the Office Action dated May 16, 2007 within the shortened three-month statutory period for reply. Claims 1-13 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-13. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Interview with Applicant's counsel on August 15, 2007. **Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's agreement to call Applicant's counsel prior to creating the next Office Action, if the Examiner believes that additional claim amendments may be necessary to further differentiate from the cited references.** As per the conversation, Applicant has further amended the claims to more clearly recite how a hash value is used to determine when a change to a value in a data field exists, thereby further differentiating the claims over the cited references. As explained in the Interview, the presently claimed invention does not merely detect when a record is added or deleted; rather, it determines whether a new value in a field does not match a pre-existing value in the field, thereby concluding that the value in the field must have changed. The system then modifies the pre-existing value with new value. Moreover, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has incorporated more of the steps depicted in Figures 3 and 4.

Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 1-5, 7, and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champagne et al., U.S. Patent Publication Number 2005/0086199 ("Champagne") in view of Sherman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,636,897 ("Sherman") and further in view of Boothby et al., U.S. Patent Publication Number 2005/0086199 ("Boothby"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Champagne generally discloses a data transfer system, wherein data residing in a first database may be mapped to fields in a second disparate database. Specifically, the Champagne system is limited to a program that automatically creates a field map defining how data should be moved and translated prior to being transmitted between a first database residing on a remote computing device and a database residing at a host. Champagne discloses a specific field identification protocol that provides a syntax for describing the characteristics of a database field (Champagne, paragraph 35). Specifically, the field identification protocol is limited to providing

information identifying a category for the field and information identifying a property of the field.

Champagne generally describes a database synchronization process. However, the disclosed synchronization process only ensures that the data fields between two or more databases are mapped correctly. Those of ordinary skill would appreciate that “data” is a very broad term encompassing many types of information and originating through any number of means. Champagne is not concerned with the generation of data, in that it is of no consequence to the data mapping system as to what changes have occurred between two datasets. Moreover, Champagne is not concerned with the problem of ensuring that executable code on a remote device is a latest revision by comparing hash values.

Sherman generally discloses a method for synchronizing information between a client computer and a server computer. Specifically, the Sherman system enables a user to specify a subset of objects for synchronization, while excluding other objects not included in the selected subset. Sherman further discloses that the default state for the synchronization includes all objects, wherein a user may then select objects that the user does not wish to be synchronized. Sherman is directed to the synchronization of folders within an email application such as, for example, Microsoft Outlook where email messages can be stored within a hierarchical structure (*e.g.*, folders within folders, files within folders, etc.). Thus, Sherman is concerned with controlling a synchronization process to enable a user to define which objects (files and folder) to exclude from an automatic synchronization process. However, Sherman is not concerned with the application of a specific synchronization protocol and/or algorithm. In other words, Sherman does not disclose a specific means by which the system determines whether or not changes have been made to the data to be synchronized. Moreover, Sherman is not concerned with the problem of ensuring that executable code on a remote device is a latest revision by comparing hash values.

Boothby generally discloses a database record synchronization system, wherein a database record on a first computer may be synchronized with a database record on a second computer. Specifically, the Boothby system determines whether a change has been made to a remote database record that has not been made to a host database record. The identified database records are assigned a unique identifier and are transmitted to the host computer where they are

used to update records in the host. Boothby generally discloses that the unique identifier may be a hash value of the changed records.

Significantly, Boothby does not calculate a hash value for record fields. For example, a record may contain two fields or it may contain hundreds of fields. Boothby calculates a hash value that is based on the record in its entirety and not the fields individually. Therefore, if a single field has been changed within a record containing hundreds of fields, Boothby flags the record as being changed, and the entire record is subsequently updated on the host computer. Practitioners would appreciate that updating individual fields poses far less of a risk to data integrity than overwriting an entire database record. Moreover, updating an individual field of a record is for more efficient than updating the entire record. Boothby is also not concerned with the problem of ensuring that executable code on a remote device is a latest revision by comparing hash values. As such, neither Champagne, Sherman, Boothby, nor any combination thereof, disclose or suggest at least, “establishing a connection from a remote device to a host, wherein said host interrogates said remote device to identify remote executable code” (e.g., step 435), “causing said host to calculate a remote hash value for said remote executable code, wherein said remote hash value is compared with a host hash value for a corresponding host executable code” (e.g., steps 440-445), “receiving said host executable code from said host when said remote hash value does not match said host hash value” (e.g., step 470), “validating said form data to identify at least one of: missing data and improperly formatted data” (e.g., step 326), “receiving corrected form data when said at least one of: missing data and improperly formatted data is identified” (e.g., step 332), and “causing said host to calculate data field hash values to determine when a change to a value of a data field exists and, causing said host to synchronize said host database with said form data when said data change exists,” (e.g., step 440) as similarly recited by independent claims 1 and 13.

Claims 2-5, 7, and 10- 12 depend from independent claim 1. As such, dependent claims 2-5, 7, and 10- 12 are differentiated from the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champagne, Sherman, and Boothby as applied to claims 1-5, 7, and 10-13 in further view of Chen et al., U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0049751 (“Chen”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Dependent claim 6 depends from independent claim 1. As noted above, the combination of Champagne, Sherman and Boothby does not teach or suggest each feature of amended independent claim 1 and Chen does not teach or suggest the missing features. Chen discloses a system and method for managing contact information within a contact management program. The Chen system enables a user to access his or her personal profile and update information within the profile; however, Chen does not disclose or suggest at least “establishing a connection from a remote device to a host, wherein said host interrogates said remote device to identify remote executable code” (e.g., step 435), “causing said host to calculate a remote hash value for said remote executable code, wherein said remote hash value is compared with a host hash value for a corresponding host executable code” (e.g., steps 440-445), “receiving said host executable code from said host when said remote hash value does not match said host hash value” (e.g., step 470), “validating said form data to identify at least one of: missing data and improperly formatted data” (e.g., step 326), “receiving corrected form data when said at least one of: missing data and improperly formatted data is identified” (e.g., step 332), and “causing said host to calculate data field hash values to determine when a change to a value of a data field exists and, causing said host to synchronize said host database with said form data when said data change exists,” (e.g., step 440) as recited by amended independent claim 1 from which claim 6 depends. Thus, dependent claim 6 is differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champagne, Sherman, and Boothby as applied to claims 1-5, 7, and 10-13 in further view of Hunkins et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,141,663 (“Hunkins”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Dependent claim 8 depends from independent claim 1. As noted above, the combination of Champagne, Sherman and Boothby does not teach or suggest each feature of amended independent claim 1 and Hunkins does not teach or suggest the missing features. Hunkins discloses a system for performing a synchronization process between two databases while maintaining the integrity of the data, however, Hunkins does not disclose or suggest at least “establishing a connection from a remote device to a host, wherein said host interrogates said remote device to identify remote executable code” (e.g., step 435), “causing said host to calculate a remote hash value for said remote executable code, wherein said remote hash value is

compared with a host hash value for a corresponding host executable code” (e.g., steps 440-445), “receiving said host executable code from said host when said remote hash value does not match said host hash value” (e.g., step 470), “validating said form data to identify at least one of: missing data and improperly formatted data” (e.g., step 326), “receiving corrected form data when said at least one of: missing data and improperly formatted data is identified” (e.g., step 332), and “causing said host to calculate data field hash values to determine when a change to a value of a data field exists and, causing said host to synchronize said host database with said form data when said data change exists,” (e.g., step 440) as recited by amended independent claim 1 from which claim 8 depends. Thus, dependent claim 8 is differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

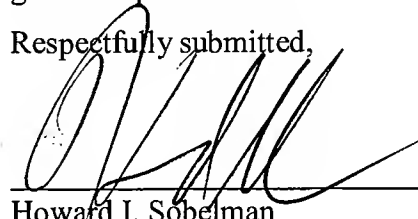
The Examiner rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champagne, Sherman, and Boothby as applied to claims 1-5, 7, and 10-13 in further view of Feague et al., U.S. Patent Publication Number 2005/0013104 (“Feague”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Dependent claim 9 depends from independent claim 1. As noted above, the combination of Champagne, Sherman and Boothby does not teach or suggest each feature of amended independent claim 1 and Feague does not teach or suggest the missing features. Feague discloses a unique pen that records pen strokes when a user uses it to write on paper. The pen can then be attached to a computer, where the recorded pen strokes are recreated on a computer screen; however, Feague does not disclose or suggest, at least “establishing a connection from a remote device to a host, wherein said host interrogates said remote device to identify remote executable code” (e.g., step 435), “causing said host to calculate a remote hash value for said remote executable code, wherein said remote hash value is compared with a host hash value for a corresponding host executable code” (e.g., steps 440-445), “receiving said host executable code from said host when said remote hash value does not match said host hash value” (e.g., step 470), “validating said form data to identify at least one of: missing data and improperly formatted data” (e.g., step 326), “receiving corrected form data when said at least one of: missing data and improperly formatted data is identified” (e.g., step 332), and “causing said host to calculate data field hash values to determine when a change to a value of a data field exists and, causing said host to synchronize said host database with said form data when said data change

exists,” (e.g., step 440) as recited by amended independent claim 1 from which claim 9 depends. Thus, dependent claim 9 is differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims properly set forth that which Applicant regards as his invention and are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner’s convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject Application. Applicant authorizes and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

Respectfully submitted,


Howard I. Sobelman
Reg. No. 39,038

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SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
400 E. Van Buren
One Arizona Center
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
Phone: 602-382-6228
Fax: 602-382-6070
Email: hsobelman@swlaw.com